

Shoreham-by-Sea
Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1948

BY
ROBERT HEYWOOD WILSHAW,
M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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SHOREHAM-BY-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

10, BULKINGTON AVENUE,
WORTHING.

June, 1949.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1948, which has been compiled in accordance with the requirements of Circular 3/49, issued by the Ministry of Health on the 17th January, 1949.

The rates for 1948 as compared with the average rate for the past ten years are as follows :—

	<i>Average, 1938-47.</i>	<i>1948.</i>
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	17.7	17.6
Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.7	10.6
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	41	33

These rates have been calculated on the estimated resident population for the mid-year 1948, supplied to me by the Registrar General.

The various mortality rates of the district during the past year as compared with the corresponding rates for England and Wales and the urban and rural districts of West Sussex are shown in a comparative table on page 4.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBERT HEYWOOD WILSHAW.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Shoreham-by-Sea Urban District Council.*

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR A. F. HOOPER.

COUNCILLOR W. BATTEN.

„ H. F. P. BARTON.

„ J. ELLMAN-BROWN, J.P.
(*Chairman of Council*).

„ MRS. W. S. BRIMFIELD.

„ J. E. JAGGER.

„ W. A. WATSON.

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :

R. HEYWOOD-WILSHAW, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector :

J. W. THURMAN, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., (*Food Cert.*)

Clerical Staff :

J. F. KEMP.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Shoreham is situate on the South Coast, midway between Brighton and Worthing. The River Adur, flowing down from Bramber to the South, bounds the town on its west side, and then winding under the Norfolk Bridge flows eastwards, until it again turns southwards to enter the sea through Shoreham Harbour mouth at Kingston. In this way the river cuts off from Shoreham Town the shingle beach south of the Adur, known as Shoreham Beach. This shingle beach is within the Urban District of Shoreham-by-Sea.

The town possesses a public recreation area, Buckingham Park, comprising 38 acres. It is situate at the foot of the Downs north of the town, and is used as a public park and pleasure ground, available for general sports and recreation purposes.

The chief industries in the town are a Soap Works, Jam Factory, Yacht Building, Chemical Works, Timber Yards, Laundries.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres), 3,093.

Resident Population (1948) estimated by Registrar General, 12,190.

Population (1931) Census, 8,757.

Rateable value (1948), £112,757.

Sum represented by 1d. rate, £465.

No. of inhabited houses end of 1948 according to rate books, 3,497.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births—Legitimate, total 198 (107 males, 91 females); illegitimate, 16 (5 males, 11 females). Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population, 17.6.

Stillbirths, 2 (1 male, 1 female). Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 9.3.

Deaths, 129 (73 males, 56 females). Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10.6.

Death from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and child-birth : From sepsis, None. From other causes, None.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births, 33.

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births, 30.

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 63.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages), 28.

„ „ Measles (all ages), None.

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages). None.

„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years), None.

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the past year.

Comparative Statistics.

			<i>England and Wales.</i>	<i>West Sussex Urban.</i>	<i>Rural.</i>	<i>Shoreham U.D.</i>
Birth Rate	...	...	17.9	15.04	16.5	17.6
Death Rate	...	...	10.8	13.6	11.3	10.6
Infantile Death Rate	...	...	34	24	22	33
Pulmonary Tuberculosis						
Death Rate	...	...	0.44	0.37	0.30	0.2
Zymotic Death Rate	...	...	—	0.01	0.02	0.0
Cancer Death Rate	...	...	1.86	2.3	2.1	2.3
Maternity Mortality Rate per 1,00 births	...	...	1.02	0.0	0.8	0.0
Scarlet Fever — Incidence Rate per 1,000 popula- tion	...	...	—	—	—	1.7
Diphtheria — Incidence Rate per 1,000 popula- tion	...	...	—	—	—	0.1
Enteric Fever—Incidence Rate per 1,000 popula- tion	...	...	—	—	—	0.0

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The causes of death and the ages of the seven children who died under one year of age are as follows :—

	<i>Cause of Death.</i>				<i>Age.</i>	<i>Sex.</i>
1.	Erythroblastosis foetalis	...	...	...	2 days	M.
	Stenosis of duodenum					
	Hypospadias					
2.	Broncho Pneumonia	...	...	...	1 week	M.
3.	Prematurity	...	...	...	15 mins.	M.
4.	Atelectasis	...	...	...	16 hours	M.
	Prematurity					
5.	Respiratory failure	...	...	...	2 days	M.
	Prematurity					
6.	Atelectasis	...	...	...	3 hours	M.
	Congenital hernia of diaphragm					
	(Post Mortem)					
7.	Prematurity	...	...	...	2 hours	F.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946.

During the first six months of 1948 the Health Services in the area were as in previous years. Since the National Health Service Act came into force on July 5th, 1948, the following services are the responsibility of the Local Health Authority, which is the West Sussex County Council.

The Care of Mothers and Young Children.

Domiciliary Midwifery.

Health Visiting.

Home Nursing.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care.

Home Help.

Mental Health.

Ambulance and Hospital Car Service.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

I. Local Health Authority Services.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

The County Council employ two nurses for general work.

Midwives.

There are three midwives practising in the district. One practises privately and two are employed by the County Council to serve Shoreham-by-Sea and Southwick.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The West Sussex County Council conduct a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre at the Shoreham Health Centre, Middle Road, twice weekly. The West Sussex County Council also conduct an Ante-Natal Clinic at these premises.

Day Nurseries.

There is no day nursery in the district.

School Clinics.

School Clinics are held twice weekly at the Health Centre, to which all school children can be sent. A Medical Officer attends weekly.

Eye Clinics, Dental Clinics and Speech Therapy Clinics are held at the new Health Centre, Middle Road.

Children suffering from enlarged tonsils and adenoids are treated at the Brighton Throat and Ear Hospital, under arrangements made by the West Sussex County Education Committee.

Ear Clinics are held from time to time at the Sussex Throat and Ear Hospital, Brighton, and appointments are made for children suffering from ear diseases to attend.

Orthopædic Clinics are held at the Lancing Health Centre.

Tuberculosis Clinic.

A Tuberculosis Clinic is held once a week at Southlands Hospital.

Veneral Diseases.

The West Sussex County Council have made arrangements entitling residents in the district to attend the Clinics for Venereal Diseases held at Worthing Hospital.

Ambulance Service.

Acting as agents for the County Council, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross Society operate the Ambulance and Hospital Car Service in the County. Calls for an ambulance are made through the doctor or nurse in attendance on the case, or through the Police.

Lists showing names and addresses of midwives, health visitors and general nurses may be seen at County Libraries, Town Halls or Offices of Local District Councils, and the Public Health Department, County Hall, Chichester. Information as to the situation of clinics and times of sessions may be obtained from the same sources, or from the local midwife, health visitor or general nurse.

II. Hospital and Specialist Services.

A comprehensive hospital and specialist service is provided by the Regional Hospital Board. Doctors can arrange whatever forms of treatment are needed for their patients in general or special hospitals, whether as in-patients or out-patients. Hospital accommodation of a private nature is available in certain circumstances subject to appropriate charges. All types of cases are thus provided for—medical, surgical, maternity, infectious diseases, and those requiring sanatorium or mental hospital treatment.

The Worthing Group Hospitals comprise Worthing, Southlands, Swandean, Littlehampton and Arundel Hospitals; Zachary Merton Maternity Home, Rustington, and certain Convalescent Homes.

III. General Medical and Dental Services.

Everyone is entitled as part of the arrangements for the National Health Service to general medical care, and dental care when this can be arranged, to receive necessary medicines and appliances, and to be supplied with glasses if necessary. Local arrangements for these services are organised through the National Health Service Executive Council for West Sussex, 63 South Street, Chichester.

Legislation in Force.

No Local Acts, Special Orders, General Adoptive Acts or By-laws relating to the public health have come into force during 1948.

LABORATORY WORK.

The following figures indicate the use that has been made of the facilities for the examination of pathological specimens.

	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Negative.</i>
Throat Swabs (Diphtheria) ...	14	1	13
Throat Swabs (Hæmolytic Streptococci)	16	7	9

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Public Health Staff consists of the Medical Officer and the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. J. W. Thurman), who also acts as Sanitary Inspector to the New Shoreham Port Health Authority.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the total notifications received during the year.

	<i>Total Cases Notified.</i>	<i>Cases Admitted to Hospital.</i>	<i>Total Deaths.</i>
Scarlet Fever	21	1	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Measles	300	5	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	4*	4	—
Pneumonia	3	—	5
Chickenpox	44	—	—
Whooping Cough	21	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—

** These four cases were in-patients at Southlands Hospital.*

The above figures include notifications relating to Shoreham residents notified from Southlands Hospital, but do not include notifications received from Southlands Hospital in respect of persons admitted from other districts, or persons who are on the nursing staff, or who are permanent inmates of the institution or in the Children's Homes. In respect of these, the following notifications were received :—

Pneumonia 13, Puerperal Pyrexia 18, Scarlet Fever 1, Whooping Cough 2, Erysipelas 1.

Scarlet Fever.

The twenty-one cases of Scarlet Fever occurred during the year as follows :—

<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Apr.</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Dec.</i>
8	1	5	4	1	2

Diphtheria.

One case was notified during the year, a child aged 12. The child had not been immunised.

Poliomyelitis.

No case was notified during the year.

Measles.

The three hundred cases of Measles occurred during the year as follows :—

<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Apr.</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>
12	3	7	60	112	88	15	1	2

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified during the year.

NOTE.—The ages of all the cases notified were as follows :—

		Under 1 Year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65
Scarlet Fever	...	—	2	2	3	1	14	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	...	6	29	38	33	43	138	8	1	3	1	—	—
Erysipelas	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Pneumonia	...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	3	7	2
Diphtheria	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	19	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	5	3	2	1	2	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chickenpox	...	3	2	4	5	5	17	5	—	2	1	—	—
Dysentery	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Diphtheria Immunisation has again been carried out during the year by the County Council. At the end of the year the position was as follows :—

	<i>Estimated population mid-year 1948</i>	<i>Total number of children immunised</i>
Under 5 years of age ...	1082	385
5-14 years of age ...	1663	1172

In addition, 39 children received a third reinforcing dose during the year.

Scabies.

During the year, 8 cases of Scabies were brought to the notice of the Health Department, namely :—

- 4 Adults.
- 2 School children.
- 2 Children under school age.

All cases were treated with Benzyl Benzoate Emulsion with satisfactory results. Clothes and bedding were disinfected by washing or hot ironing.

TUBERCULOSIS.—New Cases and Mortality, 1948.

<i>Age Period.</i>	<i>New Cases.</i>				<i>Deaths.</i>			
	<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non- Respiratory.</i>		<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Non- Respiratory.</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	13	6	1	1	2	—	—	—

No person died from Tuberculosis who had not been notified in the district during life.

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS, 1925.

It has not been necessary to serve any notice under these Regulations, which prevent persons suffering from Tuberculosis taking part in the production of Milk.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. Section 172.

No action has had to be taken by the Council under this Section, which gives power to Sanitary Authorities to apply in special cases for a Magistrate's Order for the removal of Tuberculous persons to an institution for isolation.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

(1) Water.

There is an abundant supply of pure water from the Brighton Corporation. The supply is constant and all the houses in the area are served direct. The water is not liable to have plumbo-solvent action. One sample was sent for bacteriological examination during the year and was found to be satisfactory.

Extensions of public water supplies during the year :—

Stoney Lane Housing Scheme	...	...	...	36 yards 6" pipe
				451 yards 4" pipe
				457 yards 3" pipe
Dolphin Road	...	...	...	109 yards 4" pipe
Adur Avenue	...	...	...	23 yards 3" pipe
Mill Hill	...	...	...	108 yards 4" pipe
Erringham Road	...	...	...	56 yards 4" pipe
Lower Beach Road	...	...	...	97 yards 4" pipe
The Street	...	...	...	129 yards 4" pipe

(2) Public Scavenging.

(a) House Refuse.

House refuse is removed weekly by the Council with direct labour. The refuse is disposed of by the controlled tipping method and is collected in a mechanical freighter.

(b) Sewers.

There have been no extensions of sewers during the year and there are no schemes under consideration at the present time.

(c) *Cesspools.*

Cesspools and septic tanks situate in areas where sewers are not available are emptied by the Council with a mechanical cesspool emptier, and the sewage disposed of at the sewage works. A charge is made for this service in certain defined areas.

Rivers and Streams.

It has not been necessary to take any action to check the pollution of the river.

HOUSING STATISTICS, 1948.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

<i>Name of Parish</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>With State Assistance under Housing Acts</i>		
		<i>Private Enterprise</i>	<i>By the Local Authority</i>	<i>By other bodies or persons</i>
Shoreham-by-Sea ...	15	15	—	—
Kingston-by-Sea ...	24	3	21	—
	39	18	21	—

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

- | | |
|---|-----|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 293 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... | 850 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | 73 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose... | 140 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 0 |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation | 120 |

2.—Remedies of defects during the year without service of formal notice :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	133
--	-----

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling - houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	10
(2) Number of dwelling - houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	9
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

0

E.—Housing Act, 1935—Overcrowding—

(a) i. No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	9
ii. No. of families dwelling therein	12
iii. No. of persons dwelling therein	58
(b) No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	9
(c) i. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	8
ii. No. of persons concerned in such cases	65

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

No action has been taken under the above Section during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply, Milk and Dairies Order, 1926:

No. of Dairymen (Cowkeepers and Milk Sellers, etc.) in the District	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
No. of these registered as Wholesalers only	...	...					2
No. of these registered as Retailers only	...	...					4
No. of these registered both as Wholesalers and Retailers							0
No. registered to sell milk from premises in other districts	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

No. of Inspections made :—

(1) Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
(2) Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Inspections during milking			...	...	...	...	14
No. of contraventions of the Regulations found						...	0

All cowsheds and milkshops in the District are supplied with water from the public main.

Licences.

Licences granted by the County Council :—

(1) To produce Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	...	0
(2) To produce Accredited Milk	...	...	...	2

Licences granted by the Local Authority :—

To retail milk using the designation :—

(a) Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	5
(b) Accredited	...	...	...	0
(c) Pasteurised	...	...	...	3

Legal Proceedings.

No. of summonses issued under the Regulations	...	0
---	-----	---

Bacteriological Samples of Milk.

	No. of samples taken		No. complying with standard	No. failing to comply with standard
	By County Council	By Sanitary Authority		
Tuberculin Tested	... —	0	—	—
Accredited	... 14	0	7	7
Pasteurised	... 13	0	10	3
Ordinary	... —	0	—	—

Meat and other Foods.

No. of slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. of inspections of slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. of inspections of butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	...	32
No. of inspections of vehicles or carts	...	...	...	...	...	5
No. of inspections of other food stores	...	...	...	...	...	114

One pig has been slaughtered in the district during the year and this was found to be free from disease.

Bakehouses.

No. in the district	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. underground	...	...	...	...	...	0
No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	7
No. of contraventions found	...	...	...	...	...	0

Shell Fish.

There are no shell-fish beds or layings in the district.

Condemned Foods.

A number of parcels of food were condemned as unfit and voluntarily surrendered.

Shops Act.

No. of shops in the district	...	...	...	...	...	239
No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	51
No. of defects found	...	...	...	...	...	0
No. of defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	0

No applications were made under Section 10 (6) for exemption certificates.

Factories' Act, 1937.

I.—Inspections.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	44	10	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	32	32	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	2	—	—
Total	78	44	1	—

2.—Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted	
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector		
Sanitary Conveniences—						
(a) Insufficient	3	2	—	—	—	
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	3	—	—	—	
(c) Not separate for sexes...	—	—	—	—	—	
Other Offences	2	2	—	—	—	
Total	5	7	—	—	—	

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	81
No. of contraventions observed	...	...	...	...	...	0

Camping Sites.

No. of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1948	...	...	...	...	...	6
No. of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, 1948	...	...	...	...	...	15

Smoke Abatement.

No. of observations made	...	...	...	...	...	190
No. of notices served	...	...	...	...	...	3
No. of nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	1

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

1. No. of Council Houses—						
(a) Found to be infested	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) Disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	2
2. No. of other houses—						
(a) Found to be infested	...	...	...	...	...	0
(b) Disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	0

Infested houses are gassed or treated with liquid insecticides, according to circumstances.

The houses and furniture of prospective tenants of Council Houses are examined for the presence of vermin, and, if necessary, are treated as above.

Schools.

No. of schools in the district	...	...	...	...	6
No. with public water supply	...	...	...	...	6
No. with water closets—					
(a) Separate pedestal	...	...	...	...	4
(b) Trough	...	...	...	...	2

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.

75 complaints have been received in respect of rats and mice, and 1,633 visits have been made to 180 premises. The work of rodent destruction is carried out in accordance with the procedure recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and a part-time Rodent Operator is engaged on this work in suitable instances. An estimated number of 2,112 rats have been destroyed during these operations which have included thorough treatment of the Council's refuse tip. Rat treatment No. 2 of the Council's sewers was carried out early in the year resulting in the destruction of approximately 58 rats, followed by a maintenance treatment in October at which no prebait takes were recorded. A free service is given to occupiers of private dwelling-houses.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK AND IMPROVEMENTS.

Defects remedied and nuisances abated.

Rooms renovated	...	...	...	...	26
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	30
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	38
Windows made to open	...	...	...	...	4
Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	27
Damp walls treated	...	...	...	...	11
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	4
Firegates repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	7
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Water pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Sinks repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	3

Spouting repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	14
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	34
Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	4
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	13
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	51
W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	14
W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	20
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	57
Smoke and dust	...	...	...	...	—
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	8
Tents, vans and sheds	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	13
					<hr/> 396 <hr/>
No. of inspections in regard to Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	228
No. of premises disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	43
No. of verminous premises de-infested	...	...	...	...	3
Total number of inspections for all purposes	...	...	...	...	3,618
Total number of notices served :—					
Informal	...	...	...	...	156
Statutory	...	...	...	...	10
Total number of summonses issued	...	...	...	...	0
Total number of convictions obtained	...	...	...	...	0
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	385
Complaints found justified and dealt with	...	...	...	...	372

